



# 2021 APAAC Annual Victim Advocate Conference

May 7, 2021



Leadership & Service with Integrity



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## **AGENDA**

8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks / Award Nominee Recognition</b> <i>Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, APAAC Executive Director</i>
8:50 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <i>Steve Twist, Founder, Arizona Voice for Crime Victims</i>
9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Recognition of Victim Advocate of the Year &amp; Lifetime Achievement Award Winners</b> <i>Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, APAAC Executive Director</i>
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Tech Safety Consideration for Advocates</b> <i>Alejandro Palacios, Victim Advocate, Arizona Department of Corrections</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Creating a Trauma Informed Workplace Even When You Aren't In Charge</b> <i>James Gierke, Executive Director, Homicide Survivors Inc.</i>
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Advocating in The New Normal</b> <i>Angela Rose, Training Manager, New Life Center</i>
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Wrap Up</b> <i>Amy Bocks, Chair, Arizona Coalition for Victim Services</i>

# Presenter Biographies



## **Steve Twist** **Founder, Arizona Voice for Crime Victims** **Keynote Speaker**

Steve Twist serves as Vice President and General Counsel for Services Group of America, Inc. in Scottsdale, Arizona. SGA is one of the largest privately held companies in Arizona. He also serves as volunteer General Counsel for the National Victims Constitutional Amendment Project and as a Policy Advisor to Marsy's Law for All. He is the founder and current board secretary of Arizona Voice for Crime Victims. AVCV runs a free clinic which provides legal representation and social services to crime victims seeking to protect their legal rights in criminal cases.

Mr. Twist is immediate past President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Victim Assistance and has served on the national board of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children. He remains a special advisor to the local POMC Chapter in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Mr. Twist has worked in the field of victim's rights since 1975 when, as a lawyer for the Navajo Nation, he drafted a Resolution, enacted by the Navajo Tribal Council, which established the Navajo Crime Victims' Rights Commission. In 1977 and 1978 he was retained by the Arizona House of Representatives to draft the legislation which became the new criminal code for Arizona. He served for 12 years, from 1978 to 1991, as the Chief Assistant Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

He is the author of the Arizona constitutional amendment for victims' rights, which the Arizona voters adopted in November, 1990, and the Arizona Victims' Rights Implementation Act, which passed the Legislature in 1991.

Mr. Twist has testified often in Congress on the need for a federal Crime Victims Rights Amendment. He is a principal author of the *Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Luarna Gillis, Nila Lynn Crime Victims Rights Act*. The CVRA is codified at 18 USC §3771. His testimony and other selected writings on victims' rights are available at [www.nvcap.org](http://www.nvcap.org).

He has extensive experience litigating the enforcement of victim's rights. He argued the first case in the Ninth Circuit successfully defending the CVRA. (*Kenna v Dist. Court*) He has worked across the country helping the Congress, state legislatures, and local groups draft and pass victims' rights amendments and implementing statutes.

Along with Prof. Douglas Beloof, former Federal District Court Judge Paul Cassell, and Professor Meg Garvin, he is co-author of *Victims in Criminal Procedure 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* (Carolina Academic Press, 2018), a textbook on crime victim's rights law. Mr. Twist serves as an Adjunct Professor at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law where he teaches a course on the rights of crime victims.

# Presenter Biographies

## (continued)



**Amy Bocks**  
**Chair, Arizona Coalition for Victim Services**

Amy Bocks, Advocate Program Manager, Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services (OVS) has worked in victim services since 2001. Amy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Arizona and a Master's of Educational Psychology in Human Relations from Northern Arizona University. Amy began her work in victim services in 2001 working with the victims of juvenile offenders. In 2004 she joined OVS as a Lead Advocate and carrying a case load of trial, appeal, and death penalty cases. She moved into her current role in 2011 and as Advocate Program Manager, she supervises advocates and staff, works on policy and legislative development, and oversees the Volunteer Intern Program. She manages OVS grant applications and reports to ensure continued funding and program development. Amy still provides direct services when needed and is a NOVA-trained Crisis Responder. In 2017 Amy was awarded the Attorney General's Michael C. Cudahy Award for Mentoring. Amy serves as a resource for victim service providers in southern Arizona assisting agencies such as the Board of Executive Clemency, the Department of Child Safety, and the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Victims in the Courts Restitution Committee. She has taught classes and trainings, and conducted presentations on Victims' Rights, victimology, and volunteer program management for the Arizona Victim Assistance Academy, the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council, and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. Amy is the Chair of the Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS) and also serves as a Pima County Victim Compensation Board member. She also serves as an Ambassador for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation out of Tampa, FL.



**James Gierke**  
**Executive Director, Homicide Survivors Inc.**

In 1999, James began his career in social work and worked with different victim service agencies in Tucson, Arizona. James is honored to work with an organization dedicated to advocacy, support, and assistance to family and friends who have lost a loved one to murder.

James also previously worked for the National Organization for Victim Assistance as their Director, and supervised the Victim Services Division at the Pima County Attorney's Office.

# Presenter Biographies (continued)



**Alejandro Palacios**

**Victim Advocate, Arizona Department of Corrections**

As a victim advocate at the Office of Victim Services at the Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry, Alejandro is the Lead Advocate for the Victim Offender Dialogue Program through which he facilitates a victim-driven, victim-centered & victim-initiated dialogue between victims and inmates. Alejandro is also a part time Crisis Counselor with Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, in which he assists help seekers providing crisis interventions, referral and resource information; as well, as creating actions plans related but not limited to child abuse, sexual abuse & assault, neglect, family conflict, suicide, domestic violence, youth in conflict, life crisis, addiction & recovery. Furthermore, Alejandro has worked as a technology safety specialist with the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Providing technical assistance and training on assessing and safety planning around abuse by means of technology. Alejandro also was a trainer with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence from 2013- 2016. Prior to becoming a trainer, Alejandro provided lay legal advocacy services to victim of domestic and sexual violence at the domestic violence shelter where his work in advocacy started back in 2010 as a volunteer in Phoenix, Arizona.



**Angela Rose**

**Training Manager, New Life Center**

Angela Rose is the Training Manager for New Life Center. Prior to this position, Angela served for 13 years as the Victim Services Manager for a municipal Prosecutor's Office. Angela has also worked in community-based agencies in various roles including a domestic violence advocate, transitional housing case manager supervisor, and mobile crisis response. Angela trains on various topics related to advocacy and victimization and previously served on the Executive Board for the Arizona Coalition of Victim Services.



# THANK YOU...



# **2021 APAAC Annual Victim Advocate Conference Award Nominees**



**Shannon Campodonico**  
**Victim Advocate**  
**Arizona Attorney General's Office**

Shannon Campodonico exemplifies the vital role of victim advocates in the prosecution of complex criminal cases in a trauma-informed manner. Over the past year, her dedication to two cases in particular at the Arizona Attorney General's Office stands out: State v. Melissa Pavey and State v. Paul Peterson. In Pavey, Shannon balanced the needs of dozens of victims – many of whom were elderly – who were allegedly duped and assaulted by a dentist imposter. She always ensured that they were informed, their concerns validated, and their voices heard throughout the trial proceedings. Shannon also provided excellent advocacy in Petersen, a high-profile matter that involved the sensitive issue of adoption fraud. Shannon worked seamlessly with prosecutors, investigators, and most importantly with two victims after their dream of adopting a child was taken away. These are just two examples of Shannon's unwavering dedication to victims and the pursuit of justice on their behalf.



**Araceli Guinn**  
**Caseworker II/Victim Advocate**  
**Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office**

As a Victim Advocate with the City of Phoenix Prosecutors Office, Araceli Guinn symbolizes the ideal attributes of an advocate. Treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect is of the utmost importance. Araceli is empathetic, supportive, knowledgeable, and attentive to every victim interaction. Her conviction to empower and educate victims on their journey of healing is an inspiration to victims and staff alike, and she is a shining example of victim advocacy. These characteristics represent the essential qualities that make a great victim advocate, and Araceli is a great advocate.

# **2021 APAAC Annual Victim Advocate Conference Award Nominees (continued)**



**Kelly Jones**  
**Victim Advocate**  
**Yavapai County Attorney's Office**

Kelly Jones joined the Yavapai County Attorney's Office as a Victim Advocate in 2000 and has consistently provided exceptional service to our victims. During her tenure, she has worked in Early Disposition Court, Notifications, and our Central Intake Unit. Her current assignment is as a Felony Advocate. She is passionate about her role and has made a significant impact on the lives of the victims she served this year. Kelly continuously receives high satisfaction scores from the victims she serves. The prosecutors with whom she works closely are impressed with her professionalism and ability to communicate with them and her victims. Kelly has a passion for serving victims and ensuring they are supported, and their voice is heard. She continuously strives for excellence in all that she does.



**Jacqueline Lopez**  
**Senior Advocate**  
**Pinal County Attorney's Office**

Jacqueline Lopez exemplifies an advocate who supports the victim at every phase of the criminal justice process. Jacqueline has worked as an advocate at the Pinal County Attorney's Office for twenty years and has been a Senior Advocate for fourteen years. She is knowledgeable regarding many facets of the Victims' Services Division. As a Senior Advocate, her peers often rely on her knowledge of victims' rights, court processes, and departmental procedures. In her role as an advocate and as a leader, Jacqueline consistently goes above and beyond to advocate on behalf of the victim and has encompassed the true meaning of advocacy at every level of support.



# **2021 APAAC Annual Victim Advocate Conference Award Nominees (continued)**



**Laura Lopez  
Victim Advocate  
Maricopa County Attorney's Office**

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office nominates Laura Lopez for the Victim Advocate Award. Laura is an exceptional victim advocate who serves as the Victim Services Trainer. She also carries a domestic violence and sexual assault caseload. These roles highlight her dedication to the field of victim services, but more importantly, victims of crime. Laura is passionate about helping victims understand that the crime does not define them. She believes information is power, therefore she educates and informs victims about the case, the criminal justice system and their statutory rights. Laura exemplifies all the attributes of a true victim advocate and strives to provide the highest quality of advocacy. She is a compassionate, but fierce advocate. Laura's mission each day is to make a difference in the lives of each victim she serves while positively encouraging others to do the same.

# **2021 APAAC Annual Victim Advocate Conference Lifetime Achievement Award Nominees**



**John Goodman**  
**Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
**Peoria City Attorney's Office**

John Goodman has dedicated over 25 years to serving Arizona's crime victims. John began his career with Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) in 1995 where he spent most of his tenure working with domestic violence victims. He was a member of the MCAO threat assessment team specializing in stalking, aggravated harassment, and IJP cases. John helped create DV protocols used in agency trainings, and routinely worked with Phoenix PD's threat management team. In 2007, John became the City of Peoria's Victim Assistance Coordinator. The office has been privileged to work with an advocate with his insight and expertise. John's passion and desire to serve victims permeates his work. His congenial personality and nuanced understanding of the criminal justice system and victim advocacy set him apart. Even in the most difficult cases, John seamlessly handles victims' expectations, and he effectively supplements the prosecutor's role.



**Rita Trainor**  
**Victim Advocate**  
**Yavapai County Attorney's Office**

Rita Trainor joined the Yavapai County Attorney's Office in 1998 as a Victim Assistance Case Worker. From that time to the present, Rita has consciously and consistently provided exceptional service to the victims in Yavapai County. During her tenure with the office, Rita has worked in Victim Notifications, Victim Compensation, and Restitution. She has dedicated her career to ensuring the victims she serves receive everything they need during a difficult time in their lives. She demonstrates excellence every day in her work in Victim Services. She has made a profound difference in the lives of those she serves, oftentimes in the background with little recognition.

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